

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims:

1 1. (Original) An anchor assembly for supporting a post, the
2 assembly including:
3 a hollow tubular anchor body extending along an axis and having an arcuate
4 interior cross-sectional area, the anchor body being configured to receive an
5 axially-elongate tubular post having an arcuate exterior profile and having at least a
6 hollow lower end bounded by an interior surface; and
7 a base plate connected to and closing one end of the anchor body, the base
8 plate having an arcuate portion shaped congruently to the arcuate cross-sectional
9 area of the anchor body and mated into the cross-sectional area of the anchor body,
10 the base plate having an upstanding arcuate conical portion, the conical portion
11 having a cross-sectional area that is complementary to the hollow lower end of the
12 post and having a greatest radial dimension at a base of the conical portion, the
13 greatest radial dimension being greater than a complementary dimension of the
14 interior surface of the post to cause the interior surface of the post to slide over the
15 conical portion and the conical portion to frictionally engage the post to prevent
16 lateral movement of the post relative to the base plate.

1 2. (Original) An anchor assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the
2 anchor body has a circular interior cross-sectional area to receive the post which has
3 a circular exterior profile, the arcuate portion of the base plate is circular to mate with

4 the circular cross-section anchor body, and the conical portion of the base plate is a
5 circular conic.

1 3. (Original) An anchor assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the
2 conical portion of the base plate is a truncated conic.

1 4. (Original) An anchor assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the
2 conical portion of the base plate has an axially extending opening to receive a
3 retaining member.

1 5. (Original) An anchor assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the
2 base plate has a arcuate flange that extends in an outward radial direction from the
3 arcuate portion of the base plate.

1 6. (Original) An anchor assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the
2 greatest radial dimension of the conical portion of the base plate is sufficiently large
3 to cause frictional engagement with the post at a location of the post that is spaced
4 from the arcuate portion of the base plate.

1 7. (Currently amended) A base plate insert for use with an
2 axially-elongate tubular anchor body within an anchor assembly for supporting an
3 axially-elongate tubular post, the anchor body having an arcuate interior
4 cross-sectional area, and the tubular post having an arcuate exterior profile and
5 having at least a hollow lower end bounded by an interior surface, the base plate for
6 connection to and closing of one end of the anchor body, the base plate including:

7 an arcuate portion shaped congruently to the arcuate cross-sectional area of
8 the anchor body for mating into the cross-sectional area of the anchor body; and
9 an upstanding arcuate conical portion, the conical portion being rigid and
10 non-deflecting, and having a cross-sectional area that is complementary to the
11 hollow lower end of the post and having a greatest radial dimension at a base of the
12 conical portion, the greatest radial dimension being greater than a complementary
13 dimension of the interior surface of the post to cause the interior surface of the post
14 to slide over the conical portion and the conical portion to frictionally engage the post
15 to prevent lateral movement of the post relative to the base plate.

1 8. (Original) A base plate insert as set forth in claim 7, wherein the
2 arcuate portion of the base plate is circular to mate with a circular cross-section
3 anchor body, and the conical portion of the base plate is a circular conic.

1 9. (Original) A base plate insert as set forth in claim 9, wherein the
2 conical portion of the base plate is a truncated conic.

1 10. (Original) A base plate insert as set forth in claim 7, wherein the
2 conical portion of the base plate has an axially extending opening to receive a
3 retaining member.

1 11. (Original) A base plate insert as set forth in claim 7, wherein the
2 base plate has an arcuate flange that extends in an outward radial direction from the
3 arcuate portion of the base plate.

1 12. (Original) A base plate insert as set forth in claim 7, wherein the
2 greatest radial dimension of the conical portion of the base plate is sufficiently large
3 to cause frictional engagement with the post at a location of the post that is spaced
4 from the arcuate portion of the base plate.

1 13. (New) A base plate insert as set forth in claim 7, wherein the conical
2 portion is circumferentially continuous.

1 14. (New) A base plate insert as set forth in claim 7, wherein a greatest
2 radial dimension of the arcuate portion is greater than a greatest radial dimension of
3 the conical portion.

1 15. (New) An anchor assembly for supporting a post, the
2 assembly including:
3 surface means, extending along an axis and having an arcuate interior
4 cross-sectional area, for receiving an axially-elongate tubular post having an arcuate
5 exterior profile and having at least a hollow lower end bounded by an interior
6 surface; and

7 a base plate located at and closing one end of the surface means, the base
8 plate having an arcuate portion shaped congruently to the arcuate cross-sectional
9 area of the surface means and mated into the cross-sectional area of the surface
10 means, the base plate having an upstanding arcuate conical portion, the conical
11 portion having a cross-sectional area that is complementary to the hollow lower end
12 of the post and having a greatest radial dimension at a base of the conical portion,
13 the greatest radial dimension being greater than a complementary dimension of the

14 interior surface of the post to cause the interior surface of the post to slide over the
15 conical portion and the conical portion to frictionally engage the post to prevent
16 lateral movement of the post relative to the base plate.

1 16. (New) An anchor assembly as set forth in claim 15, wherein the
2 surface means has a circular interior cross-sectional area to receive the post which
3 has a circular exterior profile, the arcuate portion of the base plate is circular to mate
4 with the circular cross-section of the surface means, and the conical portion of the
5 base plate is a circular conic.

1 17. (New) An anchor assembly as set forth in claim 15, wherein the
2 conical portion of the base plate is a truncated conic.

1 18. (New) An anchor assembly as set forth in claim 15, wherein the
2 conical portion of the base plate has an axially extending opening to receive a
3 retaining member.

1 19. (New) An anchor assembly as set forth in claim 15, wherein the base
2 plate has a arcuate flange that extends in an outward radial direction from the
3 arcuate portion of the base plate.

1 20. (New) An anchor assembly as set forth in claim 15, wherein the
2 greatest radial dimension of the conical portion of the base plate is sufficiently large
3 to cause frictional engagement with the post at a location of the post that is spaced
4 from the arcuate portion of the base plate.